

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association

Quarterly Meeting April 24, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7pm. All board members present except Susan Donaldson

President's Report

Melissa Hawthorne. SWAT team was called out to residential area on west side of creek across from neighborhood. No shots were fired but deterrent devices were used. Request from association members to have any occurrences on the greenbelt reported on the listserv

Approval of Minutes for January 24, 2012 meeting.

- Motion set forth, seconded, no opposition, motion approved

Treasurer's Report

Kerry Price. Treasurer's report at entrance at sign in table. \$15,656.77 balance within checking and paypal account. Barton Hills residents contributed \$3280 to memorial fund for City of Austin worker killed during water line work in February.

Request for motion to give church a contribution of \$300 per year (\$75 per meeting) for use of the facilities. Motion for \$300 put forth, seconded, no opposition, motion passed.

Barton Hills Neighborhood Watch

John Luther. Barton Hills is the poster child for the Austin Police Department. Map presented showing locations of home burglaries and car burglaries. There were 8 home burglaries and 2 car burglaries, which there were 104 home burglaries in all of 78704. These home break ins occur between 8:30 and 3pm on the weekdays. The patrol is active in the mornings until 4:30 pm and from 11:30pm to 3am. The night patrols are more difficult to staff.

If you see something suspicious call 911 and report a suspicious activity. A neighborhood lady called in on a suspicious car on Barton Skyway and it was pulled over and full of stolen goods. She was given recognition by the APD. No neighborhood

watch patrol in the US is armed. In Barton Hills volunteers are not allowed to get out of their cars.

Richard McCain, local resident sheriff, is suggesting to keep garage doors closed, keep electronic items out of cars in visible view.

Greenbelt Guardians

Glee Ingram and Stan Ostrum. Invasive species removal. Over the past year through a \$30,000 private grant and \$200,000 grant through Impact Austin, a hired crew has covered 71 acres of invasive plant removal from Barton Springs pool up to 360 on the main side of the greenbelt trail.

Work day, June 2nd, National Trails day. ½ dozen projects up and down greenbelt. While normally the workdays cover both the Homedale and Gus Fruh trailheads, this workday with focus on the Gus Fruh site. Switchback will be resurfaced, rock work on retaining wall at swim area, invasive removal, weeding and trash clean up will be performed. Forestry department looked at windrows and said little chance of these creating a fire hazard.

Neighborhood Development

Sunny Luther. 1st annual picnic in the park on April 7th was attended by approximately 80 people and featured Jennifer Cook and her band. 4th of July parade volunteers needed for setup. Richard McCain, local resident sheriff, is going to be grand marshall of parade.

Emergency Preparedness

Evacuation route for large scale evacuation of neighborhood is in the process of being drawn up with the Fire Department. Street signs to direct traffic out of neighborhood, with alternate routes and a location for one large meeting area, perhaps the Methodist Church on South Lamar, where everyone can meet to check in.

Firewise Program. Waiting for final draft from Texas Forest Service for community approval. Dead brush is the main problem. Strategic plan needed to combat fires. Best thing to do is to evaluate your own property for fire danger. Talk about having a neighborhood brush collection program during the summer.

Austin Neighborhood Council

Tom Nuckols. Endorsement meeting which ANC endorsed Shea for mayor, Presley for Place 6 and Colder Place 1. These are not Barton Hills endorsed candidates. Short

term rental issue put on hold until after elections. Single member districts. Austin is largest city electing council members at large. Single member areas of city are divided into specific areas and a person is voted to represent this district. Single member districts can lose the vision of the city at large because each member is only concerned with their district. This will not be on the final ballot until November 2013. Barton Hills has one of the highest voter turn out percentage in city. Going into a single member district would reduce our neighborhood's influence. A hybrid system between an at large and single member district is the best way to address both systems.

Barton Hills Park 5 year vision plan

Kathleen Schneeman. A future plan for the school park grounds is being developed, which a survey was done within the neighborhood with 4 focus groups. Fall of 2011 data was gathered and then vetted in the early winter of 2012. 8 areas were identified. Number 1 was having the school the center of the community. #2- Science and nature tie in to parkgrounds, #3 – Grass field. #4 – All indoor projects working with the school district were tabled because of AISD fund shortage. #5- Painting portables. #6 Outdoor amphitheater and pavilion. #7 – Secondary Language. #8 – Safe routes with sidewalks and bike lanes to the school. Funding is done through grants and scholarships, PTA fundraising, neighborhood fundraising, district support and city neighborhood partnering program.

Stefan Pharis, a green space planner, introduced a master plan for the parkland. This included irrigation solutions and erosion programs, a rain garden, terracing above basketball court, natural play scapes and covered pavilions.

Neighborhood Wildlife Program

Erin Cord. A large varieties of wildlife species exist and have been spotted in the neighborhood, including a ring tailed cat, indigo bunting, hummingbirds, wood ducks, wild turkeys, red squirrels, green anole and monarch butterflies. 4 things you can do to get wildlife into your yard is to provide food such as native plants, water via a pond or birdbath, cover such as a rock pile or thicket, and nesting areas so young can be raised, with things such as nesting boxes. Sustainable practices lead to a more natural environment within your yard. This is accomplished by mulching, composting and rain water collection. Mulching results in less chemical fertilizing, which is less chemicals into your water supply, more plants create cleaner air, lawn reduction leads to less mowing, lower water bills result from less yard space and proper mulching, and of course the joy of watching nature come into your yard. To see what it takes to get your yard certified go to www.keepeaustinwild.com.

Neighborhood Habitat Challenge: Create and provide the habitat to bring wildlife to your yard. Neighborhood actively participates in a community habitat project. Articles

written regarding habitat challenge and what was done to accomplish the goals. Neighbors getting their properties certified. Prize awarded being free trees!

- Motion to participate in Habitat Challenge, seconded, no opposition, motion carries

Riparian Restoration

Alex Duran – Environmental Scientist for C.O.A. surface water team. There have been continual decreases in water quality and water quantity. City is introducing riparian restoration and creating no mow areas within 17 parks through out the city. The Robert E Lee overflow and Barton Parkway drainage channel are areas being included in this new program.

Area Development

Peter Hess. One new development is to improve bike routes along Barton Springs from the park all the way to South First/Riverside. The bridge crossing Barton Creek is in bad condition and the Umlauf hillside is slowly coming down.

Development is starting around the Broken Spoke area which the plans are for 350 residential units and mixed use commercial/retail development. There has to be input by August 15th.

- Motion to talk with South Lamar development committee to address development issues, seconded, no opposition, motion carries.

Odyssey of the Mind Production – Barton Hills Elementary students

The Barton Hills Elementary students opened the meeting with a short production they created. The BHNA wants to contribute \$500 for the productions travel funds.

- Motion for \$500 contribution for travel fund, seconded, no opposition, motion carries.

- Motion to adjourn spring 2012 meeting, seconded, motion carries.